



City of San Marcos



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT'S ORDER FOR TEXAS

What this means for the state and for San Marcos

On Monday, April 27, Governor Greg Abbott released a new Executive Order (GA 18) outlining plans for the first phase of cautiously reopening Texas businesses while prioritizing COVID-19 safety restrictions. Testing will also be increased across the state in order to monitor public health as some restrictions are lifted.

Starting this Friday, May 1, businesses including restaurants, retail shops, movie theaters, malls, museums, libraries and single-person offices may reopen, limited to 25% capacity. Licensed healthcare professionals may return to work under the rules of their respective licensing agencies. Licensed hospitals must reserve 15% of their capacity for treating COVID-19 patients. Outdoor sports classified as “no-contact,” including tennis and golf, are allowed as long as they are limited to groups of 4.

Salons, barber shops, spas, gyms, bars, interactive amusement venues like bowling alleys and video arcades, tattoo and piercing studios, and massage establishments must remain closed for now. Interactive areas with hands-on activities, including child play areas, should also remain closed. **All City facilities, parks and playscapes currently closed will remain closed at this time and opening will be evaluated in coordination with the results of the additional state testing and the Governor’s actions to move to Phase 2 in reopening Texas.**

The state plans to expand testing to 25,000 tests administered per day in early May. If data from this additional testing shows that the virus is being appropriately contained, Phase 2 of the Governor’s plan to re-open Texas businesses could begin as early as May 18.

COVID-19 Business Hotline: 512.393.5930
Hays County COVID-19 Hotline: 512.393.5525

Individual Businesses

WHO CAN OPEN AND WHO REMAINS CLOSED



Restaurants

- May open Friday, May 1
- Limited to 25% capacity
- Could expand to 50% capacity as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18
- No tables larger than six
- Tables must be six feet apart
- Use disposable menus
- No items on unoccupied tables
- No shared condiments
- Must provide hand sanitizing station at entrance of restaurant
- Consider requiring employees to wear cloth face coverings over face and mouth
- Contact-free payment encouraged
- Employee screening before each shift
- Sanitation protocols for employees & facility



Retailers

- May open Friday, May 1
- Limited to 25% capacity
- Could expand to 50% capacity as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18
- Consider requiring employees to wear cloth face coverings over face and mouth
- Encouraged to dedicate certain shopping times for at-risk customers, or provide delivery options
- Contact-free payment encouraged
- Employee screening before each shift
- Sanitation protocols for employees & facility



Museums & Libraries

- May open Friday, May 1
- Limited to 25% capacity
- Could expand to 50% capacity as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18
- Must keep hands-on, interactive areas closed
- Employee screening before each shift
- Sanitation protocols for employees & facility



Movie Theaters

- May open Friday, May 1
- Limited to 25% capacity
- Could expand to 50% capacity as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18
- Keep two seats (six feet) empty between parties and leave every other row empty
- Disinfect seats between meetings
- Remote ticketing options encouraged
- For dine-in theaters, no items on unoccupied tables, use disposable menus, no shared condiments
- Consider requiring employees to wear cloth face coverings over face and mouth
- Contact-free payment encouraged
- Employee screening before each shift
- Sanitation protocols for employees & facility



Outdoor Sports

- May restart provided the sport does not include contact with other participants
- Limited to groups of four
- Group size may expand as part of Phase 2 as early as May 18
- Does not include public pools, which will remain closed



Salons/Barbershops/Spas

- Remain closed for now
- Could reopen as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18



Gyms

- Remain closed for now
- Could reopen as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18



Bars

- Remain closed for now
- Could reopen as part of Phase 2, as early as May 18

Q & A About the Open Texas Order

Do I still have to stay home? Texans are allowed to leave home to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services (restaurants, retailers, theaters, malls); however, social gatherings and in-person contact with people who are not in the same household should still be minimized.

Should I still practice social distancing, good hygiene, and wear a mask in public? Yes. COVID-19 is still a threat to public health, and it is up to us as individuals to practice good hygiene to reduce risk. Keep a six foot distance between yourself and others, wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, stay home if you are feeling sick, and wear a cloth mask when out in public.

How can I determine my business capacity? To determine your occupancy limit, please contact the San Marcos FD Prevention Division at (512) 805-2600 or fireplan@sanmarcostx.gov, and an Inspector will respond to your location and calculate your allowed occupancy.

I am the owner of a restaurant or retail business reopening. What should I do to keep myself, employees and customers safe?

- All employees should be trained on environmental cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
- Screen employees before coming into the business for new or worsening cough; shortness of breath; sore throat; loss of taste or smell; feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit; or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Any employee who meets any of these criteria should be sent home.
- Upon entering the business, employees wash or sanitize hands.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from one another.

As a business owner, am I allowed to require customers to wear face coverings in my establishment? Yes, individual businesses can require face coverings be worn by customers upon entry.

If I would like to dedicate certain periods of time each day for only at-risk customers, what are my options? It is preferable to allocate 1 to 2 hours in the morning hours for at-risk customers. This allows them to access the facility early in the day before other customers have occupied the space.

What if I have other questions about my business reopening? Please contact the COVID-19 Business Hotline at (512) 393-5930.

Will City Facilities, including the San Marcos Public Library, open on May 1? All City facilities that are currently closed, including the public library, parks and playscapes, will remain closed at this time and opening will be evaluated in coordination with the results of the additional state testing and the Governor's actions to move to Phase 2 in reopening Texas.

Are City Parks open? River and city parks are still closed at this time, however, greenspaces and nature trails are open to the public. For a listing of open and closed parks and greenspaces, visit www.sanmarcostx.gov/covid19parksinfo.

What do I do if my employer is asking me to return to work, but I, or someone I am caring for, am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms? The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. For more information, contact 1-866-487-9243.

Can we attend religious services? Religious services may remain open and are advised to maintain minimum standard health protocols. This also applies to funeral services, burials, and memorials.

Where can I read the Governor's Report to Open Texas? You can find a link to the Open Texas Report at www.sanmarcostx.gov/opentexas.

Open Texas Resources

City:

www.sanmarcostx.gov/opentexas

State of Texas:

gov.texas.gov/organization/opentexas